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<p>(54) Title: LIQUID BARRIERS IN ABSORBENT ARTICLES</p> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>An absorbent article, such as a diaper, a sanitary napkin, an incontinence guard or like article, that includes longitudinally and transversely extending edges, a bottom liquid-impermeable sheet, an absorbent sheet, a top liquid-permeable sheet that is intended to lie proximal to the wearer in use, and on each side of the longitudinal centre line of the top sheet at least one longitudinally extending liquid barrier comprised of an elongated, essentially inelastic and essentially liquid-impermeable material (17) having two longitudinal edges (18, 19) of which the first edge (18) is fastened to the top liquid-permeable sheet of the absorbent article or to its bottom liquid-impermeable sheet along or adjacent to the longitudinal edge of the article, and the second edge of which is fastened to an elongated, prestretched elastic element (14) in a manner such that when the article is donned, the elastic device (14) will lie against the wearer.</p> <div data-bbox="1006 1134 1299 1407"> </div>		

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LIQUID BARRIERS IN ABSORBENT ARTICLES

BACKGROUND

5 The present invention relates to an absorbent article that includes an effective liquid barrier, an element that can be used as a liquid barrier in an absorbent article, and a method of producing liquid barriers in absorbent articles.

10 An absorbent article includes, among other things, a bottom liquid-impermeable sheet, an absorbent layer or sheet disposed on said bottom sheet, and a top surface sheet which is intended to lie proximal to the wearer in use. When the absorbent article is a diaper or an incontinence guard, it will also include flexible side-flaps which extend laterally beyond the absorbent body on opposite sides thereof and elastic devices that extend longitudinally along the free side-edges of the side flaps
15 at least within that part which is intended to form the crotch part of the article in use; said flaps and elastic devices enabling the absorbent article to be fitted to the wearer. The elastic devices function as leg elastic when the article is worn and are intended to seal around the wearer's thighs and also to shape the article. The flexible side-flaps form tightening or sealing edges and have the additional function
20 of preventing liquid, and possibly faeces, from leaking out at the edges, in other words they form barriers.

As an added safeguard against the leakage of liquid from the side-edges of an article, a number of absorbent articles also include additional, inner liquid-barriers
25 or cuffs fastened in the proximity of the longitudinal edges of the article concerned. The purpose of the liquid barrier is to prevent liquid from escaping at the edges of the absorbent article and also possibly to prevent the escape of solids, such as faeces. This second barrier is placed inwardly of the leg elastic, i.e. inwardly of the outer liquid barrier, and is comprised of an essentially liquid-impermeable material,
30 for instance a nonwoven material, and also of elastic devices which gather together, or pucker, the edge of the liquid barrier in abutment with the wearer. The

unresilient, inelastic material is secured along one longitudinally extending edge thereof to the absorbent article near or at the longitudinally extending edges. The elastic device, e.g. elastic thread, is fastened along the other edge of the inelastic material, so as to gather together the liquid carrier and form a puckered edge which
5 is partially extended or stretched when the article is donned. The puckered edge is usually formed by folding the inelastic material around one or more elastic threads, into a channel along the edge of the material. The inelastic material is glued or welded around the elastic threads. When the absorbent article is donned, the puckered edge lifts and is partially stretched, the extent of this stretch being
10 dependent on the size of the wearer. Examples of diapers that include liquid barriers are found in SE-T3-0264 238 and GB-A-2 188 532, for instance.

In the case of diapers that include liquid barriers or cuffs for instance, the barrier will be positioned so as to lie against the crotch and buttocks of the wearer and
15 should prevent leakage in these areas. Each urine discharge will deliver a certain volume of liquid to the article. Because of the delay before this urine is able to penetrate through the upper sheet and be absorbed in the absorbent layer, a certain amount of urine will "float" in the absorbent article on top of the surface sheet. The barrier is intended to prevent this volume of urine from forcing its way out at the
20 edges of the absorbent article. Cuffs can also be used on sanitary napkins, for instance.

It has been found, however, that this barrier is not leakage-proof.

25 The object of the present invention is to provide an improved liquid barrier that includes a more effective sealing edge and, at the same time, a softer and more comfortable edge in abutment with the wearer. A further object of the invention is to provide an absorbent article that includes at least one such barrier.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to an absorbent article, such as a diaper, sanitary napkin, incontinence guard or like article, that includes longitudinally extending and transversely extending edges, a bottom liquid-impermeable sheet, an absorbent sheet or layer, a top liquid-permeable sheet which is intended to lie proximal to a wearer in use, and on each side of the centre line of the top sheet at least one longitudinally extending liquid barrier which is comprised of a longitudinally extending, essentially inelastic and essentially liquid-impermeable material that has two longitudinally extending edges, of which the first edge is fastened to the top liquid-permeable sheet or to the bottom liquid-impermeable sheet of the absorbent article along or adjacent to the longitudinal edge of said article, and the other edge of which is fastened to an elongated, prestretched elastic element to form a puckered, stretchable barrier edge that is intended to lie against the wearer of the article, wherein the elastic element is comprised of a band-like or ribbon-like elastic device or means having a first and a second longitudinally extending edge of which at least the first edge is fastened in a stretched state to the second edge of the essentially inelastic material such that the mutually joined edges will form a stretchable puckered first barrier edge, and including a longitudinally extending free part that forms a stretchable, essentially smooth second barrier edge, the elastic device being fastened to the essentially inelastic material in a manner such that when the article is donned said elastic device will lie against the wearer with the free part facing towards the centre line of the article and the gathered barrier edge facing outwards from the centre line of said article.

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The invention also relates to an absorbent article which includes a liquid-impermeable sheet that is intended to lie against a wearer and is provided with elastic for shaping the article to the wearer's body, said sheet including an aperture which is intended to be caused to register with the anus and urethra orifice of the wearer and around which aperture a stretchable sealing edge is disposed in the essentially liquid-impermeable sheet, which edge has been puckered by a

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prestretched elastic element, an absorbent body being disposed on that side of the essentially liquid-impermeable sheet that lies distal to the wearer in use, the absorbent body being enclosed between a liquid-permeable sheet on that side which lies proximal to the wearer in use, and a liquid-impermeable sheet, the elastic element being comprised of a band-like elastic device having a first and a second longitudinally extending edge of which at least the first edge is fastened in a prestretched state to the essentially liquid-impermeable sheet in the sealing edge such that the puckered edges form a stretchable, puckered first barrier edge, and including a longitudinally extending free edge which forms a stretchable, essentially smooth second barrier edge, the elastic device being fastened to the liquid-impermeable sheet such that when the article is donned, the elastic device will lie against the wearer with said free part facing inwardly towards said aperture and with the gathered barrier edge facing outwardly from said aperture.

The invention also relates to a web-like element for use as a liquid barrier in an absorbent article, said element including an elongated, essentially inelastic and essentially liquid-impermeable material having two longitudinally extending edges of which the first edge is free and intended to be fastened to the absorbent article and the second edge is fastened to an elongated, stretched elastic element so as to form a puckered, stretchable barrier edge, the elastic element being comprised of a band-like elastic device having a first and a second longitudinally extending edge of which at least the first edge is fastened in a stretched state to the second edge of the essentially inelastic material such that the mutually joined edges will form a stretchable, puckered first barrier edge, and including a longitudinally extending free part that forms a stretchable, essentially smooth second barrier edge. Thus, the web-like element comprises three barrier edges, i.e. the stretchable, puckered first barrier edge, the stretchable, essentially smooth second barrier edge and a third barrier edge consisting of the first edge of the essentially inelastic and essentially liquid-impermeable material, where the first and second barrier edges in a relaxed state are shorter than the third edge and can be stretched to the length of said third edge.

When the barrier element is stretched, e.g. when an absorbent article including such an element is donned, the two stretchable barrier edges will lie generally at right angles to the inelastic material, so that the barrier element obtains a T-shape.

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The second edge of the elastic device conveniently forms said free part. However, the elastic device may be folded lengthwise and the first and second edges both fastened to the second edge of the inelastic material. The folded edge of the elastic device will then form said free part.

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The second edge of the elongated, inelastic material is preferably folded to form a channel around at least the stretched first edge of the elastic device. The channel is fastened to the elastic device, e.g. glued or welded thereto, and forms the puckered barrier edge. It is also possible to insert and fasten both edges of the elastic device in said channel.

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Nonwoven material, e.g. a multi-layer nonwoven material, is an example of the essentially inelastic material that can be used. Such a material may be an SMS material, i.e. spunbond-meltblown-spunbond.

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The elastic device may comprise elastic film or elastic ribbon based on styrene block copolymers, such as SBS (styrene-butadien-styrene), SIS (styrene-isoprene-styrene), SEBS (styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene) or SEPS (styrene-ethylene-propylene-styrene). The film may consist of several layers and may, for instance, be a three-ply film where the outer layers consist of polypropylene. The polypropylene functions to facilitate fastening of the film to the inelastic material and may, e.g., facilitate gluing to the other material. Polypropylene also feels more comfortable to the skin than a number of other elastic films, which feel like plastic against the skin, which one wishes to avoid. Elastic nonwoven material may also be used as the elastic devices.

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An inventive barrier element is produced by laying the band-like elastic device against the web-like, essentially inelastic and essentially liquid-impermeable material with its first edge stretched and parallel with and close to the second edge of the inelastic material and with its second edge facing towards the first edge of said inelastic material. The first edge of the elastic device is joined to the inelastic material, for instance, glued or welded to the inelastic material, optionally after having folded the second edge of the inelastic material around the first edge of the band-like elastic device so as to form from the mutually joined parts a stretchable, puckered first barrier edge. The second edge of the elastic device will be free and form a stretchable, essentially smooth second barrier edge. The barrier element is incorporated in an absorbent article, by fastening the first edge of said barrier element to the top liquid-permeable sheet of the article, close to the longitudinally extending edge, or to the bottom liquid-impermeable sheet at the edge part of said article, said barrier element being turned so that the free edge or part of said elastic device faces towards the longitudinal centre line of the article.

When manufacturing an inventive absorbent article, the first edge of the web-like essentially inelastic and essentially liquid-impermeable material may be fastened to the top liquid-permeable sheet of the article close to said longitudinally extending edge, or to the bottom liquid-impermeable sheet at the edge of the article prior to forming the puckered barrier edge in accordance with the foregoing.

The elastic device will suitably have a width of at least 0.5 cm, preferably at least 1.0 cm. The width of the elastic device is preferably smaller than 5 cm.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invention will now be described in more detail with reference to particular embodiments thereof and also with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which

Fig. 1 illustrates a diaper that includes conventional liquid barriers;

Fig. 1a is an enlarged cross-sectional view of a liquid barrier according to conventional practice, said view being taken on the line I-I in Fig. 1;

Fig. 1b is a cross-sectional view of one embodiment of an inventive liquid barrier, said view corresponding to an enlarged cross-sectional view taken on the line I-I in Fig. 1;

Figs. 2a, b and c illustrate the manner in which conventional liquid barriers and inventive liquid barriers are formed and fastened to the liquid-permeable top sheet or to the liquid-impermeable bottom sheet of an absorbent article; and

Figs. 3a and b illustrate respectively the manner in which an inventive liquid barrier and a conventional liquid barrier lies against the wearer of the article.

The barriers are illustrated schematically in the majority of the Figures, with the component layers mutually separated for the sake of clarity.

Figs. 1 and 1a illustrate a conventional absorbent article, such as a diaper, sanitary napkin, incontinence guard or the like, that includes longitudinally extending and transversely extending edges 6, 7, 8, 9, a bottom liquid-impermeable sheet 21, an absorbent sheet or layer 23, a top liquid-permeable sheet 22 which is intended to lie proximal to the wearer in use, and liquid barriers which extend longitudinally on each side of the centre line of the top sheet and which comprise leg elastic 4, 5 on the one hand and upstanding liquid barriers 2, 3 on the other hand comprised of an essentially inelastic and essentially liquid-impermeable material fastened along or adjacent to a respective longitudinal edge 6, 7 of the article. When the article is a diaper for instance, it will include a waist part at its front and rear parts as well as an intermediate part constituting the crotch part. Its transverse edges 8, 9 will be

placed on the wearer's waist and the longitudinal edges 6, 7 at the crotch and at the legs or thighs of the wearer when the product is donned.

5 The outer barriers, the leg elastic 4, 5, are usually comprised of elastic threads which are fastened in a stretched state between the top liquid-permeable sheet and the bottom liquid-impermeable sheet of the absorbent article.

Each inner barrier 2, 3 is comprised of an elongated element 10 made of an essentially liquid-impermeable material and fastened at one longitudinal edge 11 to the top liquid-permeable sheet 22 or to the bottom liquid-impermeable sheet 21 in the vicinity of the longitudinally extending edges 6, 7. The other edge 12 of the element (Fig. 1a) is folded around a prestretched elastic thread or threads 13 and fastened to said threads such as to form a puckered barrier edge which is intended to lie against the wearer when the article is donned. When the diaper is used, the liquid barrier 2, 3 will lie against the crotch and buttocks of the wearer and should prevent the leakage of liquid in these areas.

15 In one embodiment, the leg elastic 4, 5 constitute the outer liquid barriers and the inner cuffs 2, 3 constitute inner liquid barriers. In another embodiment of the invention, the leg elastic is the sole liquid barriers 4, 5 and will thus constitute the inner liquid barriers.

Fig. 1b illustrates a barrier element according to the invention. The barrier element includes an essentially inelastic, generally liquid-impermeable material sheet 17 having a free edge 18 which is intended to be fastened to an absorbent article, and another edge 19 which is folded around a first edge 15 of a band-like elastic element 14. The first edge of the elastic element is inserted in a prestretched state into the channel that is formed by folding the other edge of the inelastic material sheet and the edge-parts are joined together, e.g. welded or glued together, such as to form a stretchable, puckered first barrier edge 39. The other, or second, edge 16 of the elastic element is free and forms a stretchable, essentially smooth second barrier

edge which has an essentially smooth surface in both a relaxed and a tensioned state.

Fig. 2a illustrates schematically an enlarged liquid barrier constructed in accordance with conventional practice, while Figs. 2b and c illustrate schematically two embodiments of an inventive liquid barrier. The Figures show how the liquid barriers are applied to the absorbent article.

The conventional liquid barrier is fastened with the first edge 11 of the elongated element 10 to one of the sheets of the absorbent article, along its longitudinal edge 6. The other edge 12 of the elongated element 10 is folded in so as to form a channel in which an elastic thread or elastic threads 13 are fastened in a stretched state, e.g. glued. The element 10 is fastened to the nonwoven surface of the article, e.g. glued or welded thereto. The barrier edge 32 formed by this channel will be puckered and will lie against the wearer in use.

Figs. 2b and c illustrate an inventive liquid barrier. An elongated, essentially inelastic and essentially liquid-impermeable material sheet 17 is fastened at its first edge 18 to the top or the bottom sheet of the absorbent article, along longitudinal edge 6 thereof. Said edge is fastened by gluing or welding said edge, for instance. An elongated band-like elastic device 14 having two longitudinal edges 15, 16 is fastened in a stretched state with its first edge 15 against the elongated, essentially inelastic and liquid-impermeable material sheet 17. In the case of the Fig. 2b embodiment, the elastic device 14 is fastened in the inwardly folded second edge 19 of the essentially inelastic sheet 17, with the inwardly folded edge facing down towards the absorbent article. In the case of the Fig. 2c embodiment, the elastic device 14 and the liquid-impermeable sheet 17 lie against one another without folding the second edge 19 of said sheet. In this case, the edges of both sheets are fastened together, so as to form a puckered edge. In order to form the puckered edge, the joint is given a certain width that corresponds to the desired edge width, or the sheets are fastened slightly inwards of the edges 15, 19.

The elastic device is secured with glue or a weld, for instance. The second edge 16 of the elastic device will be free and form a longitudinally extending free part of the elastic device. The elastic will lie inwardly folded and protected beneath the elongated, essentially inelastic material during manufacture and packaging.

The free edge 16 of the elastic device presents an essentially smooth surface both in a relaxed and in a stretched state and is intended to provide a "seal" at the contact surface between the wearer's skin and the liquid barrier when the absorbent article is donned.

Fig. 1b shows the inventive liquid barrier as it will appear when used in an absorbent article. When the absorbent article is unfolded for use, the elastic device 14 will be "folded up" from the upper surface of the article. When the absorbent article is stretched in a direction towards its transverse edges 8, 9, the free edge 16 of the elastic device will face inwards towards the centre of the absorbent article, so as to be as short as possible. The more the article is stretched, the closer the edge 16 will approach the absorbent article. The elastic device will lie generally parallel to the surface of the absorbent article. When tension on the liquid barrier is relieved, the free part of the elastic, i.e. the edge 16, will endeavour to follow the shortest route, and will therewith strive to move upwards, as evident from Fig. 1b. This takes place when the absorbent article, e.g. a diaper, is donned by the user. The liquid barrier will relax as the article is folded around the wearer's crotch, and the free edge 16 of the elastic will strive to move upwards.

Fig. 3a illustrates the elastic device 14 in abutment with the wearer's skin. The essentially smooth surface of the elastic device provides a better seal, and hence no pores will occur between the barrier edge and the skin. The barrier edge also provides an effective "seal" against the wearer's skin, because liquid that flows out in the space between the absorbent body of the article and the wearer's skin will press the barrier edge against the wearer's skin.

Fig. 3b is a corresponding view of a conventional liquid barrier. In this case, through-penetrating pores exist between the wearer's skin and the puckered barrier edge 32. Furthermore, liquid present in the space between the absorbent body and the wearer's skin will press the barrier edge outwards. This article will therefore leak much earlier than the inventive article.

In another embodiment, transverse barriers are fastened to respective transverse edges 8, 9 of the absorbent product.

The essentially inelastic material may be a nonwoven material, e.g. a multi-layer nonwoven material. This material may be an SMS material, i.e. spunbond-meltblown-spunbond.

The material in the elastic device may be elastic film based on styrene block copolymers, such as SBS (styrene-butadiene-styrene), SIS (styrene-isoprene-styrene), SEBS (styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene) or SEPS (styrene-ethylene-propylene-styrene). The film may also consist of several layers. For instance, it may be a three-ply film of which the outer layers consist of polypropylene, where the polypropylene is intended to facilitate the arrangement of the film on the inelastic material or on the absorbent article. The polypropylene may, for instance, facilitate gluing to the other materials. Polypropylene also gives a more comfortable feeling to the skin than a number of other elastic films, which can feel like plastic against the skin, which one wishes to avoid.

It will be understood that the invention is not restricted to the aforescribed and illustrated exemplifying embodiments thereof and modifications can be made within the scope of the invention as defined in the following Claims.

CLAIMS

1. An absorbent article (1, 26), such as a diaper, a sanitary napkin, an incontinence guard or like article, that includes longitudinally extending edges (6, 7) and transversely extending edges (8, 9), a bottom liquid-impermeable sheet (21), an absorbent sheet (23), a top liquid-permeable sheet (22) that is intended to lie proximal to the wearer in use, and on each side of the longitudinal centre line of the top sheet (22) at least one longitudinally extending liquid barrier (2, 3, 4, 5) comprised of an elongated, essentially inelastic and essentially liquid-impermeable material (10, 17) having two longitudinal edges (11, 12, 18, 19) of which the first edge (11, 18) is fastened to the top liquid-permeable sheet (22) of the absorbent article or to its bottom liquid-impermeable sheet (21) along or adjacent to the longitudinal edge (6, 7) of the article, and the second edge (12, 19) of which is fastened to an elongated, prestretched elastic element (13, 14) such as to form a puckered, stretchable barrier edge (32, 39) which is intended to lie against the wearer when the article is donned, characterized in that the elastic element is comprised of a band-like elastic device (14) having a first longitudinal edge (15) and a second longitudinal edge (16) of which at least the first edge (15) is fastened in a stretched state to the second edge (19) of the essentially inelastic material such that the mutually joined edges will constitute a stretchable, puckered first barrier edge (39), and including a longitudinal free part (16) which constitutes a stretchable, essentially smooth second barrier edge, where the elastic device (14) is fastened to the essentially inelastic material (17) in a manner such that when the article is donned, the elastic device (14) will lie against the wearer with said free part (16) facing towards the centre line of the article, the stretchable, puckered first barrier edge (39) facing outwards from said centre line.

2. An absorbent article which includes a liquid-impermeable sheet which is intended to lie against a wearer and which is provided with elastic for shaping the article to the wearer's body, wherein said sheet includes an aperture which is intended to lie in register with the anus and urethra orifice of the wearer, wherein a

stretchable sealing edge puckered by means of a prestretched elastic element is disposed in the essentially liquid-impermeable sheet around said aperture, and wherein an absorbent body is disposed on that side of the essentially liquid-impermeable sheet that lies distal from the wearer in use, said absorbent body being enclosed between a liquid-permeable sheet on the side lying proximal to the wearer, and a liquid-impermeable sheet, characterized in that the elastic element is comprised of a band-like elastic device having a first longitudinally extending edge and a second longitudinally extending edge of which at least the first edge is fastened in a prestretched state to the essentially liquid-impermeable sheet in the sealing edge, such that the mutually joined edges will constitute a stretchable, puckered first barrier edge, and including a longitudinally extending free part which constitutes a stretchable, essentially smooth second barrier edge, wherein the elastic device is fastened to the liquid-impermeable sheet in a manner such that when the article is donned, said elastic device will lie against the wearer with the free part facing inwards towards the aperture and the puckered barrier edge facing outwards from said aperture.

3. An absorbent article (1, 26) according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said free part is formed by the second edge (16) of said elastic device.

4. An absorbent article (1, 26) according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the elastic band-like device (14) is bent longitudinally; and in that its first (15) and second (16) edges are fastened to the second edge (19) of the inelastic material, the bent part of the elastic device (14) constituting said free part.

5. An absorbent article (1, 26) according to any one of Claims 1-4, characterized in that the second edge (19) of the inelastic material is folded inwards towards the centre line of the article so as to form a channel around the first edge (15) of the elastic device, where said edge is fastened, e.g., by gluing or welding.

6. An absorbent article (1, 26) according to any one of Claims 1-5, characterized in that the elastic device is comprised of inelastic film based on, e.g., SBS, SIS, SEBS or SEPS.

5 7. A web-like element intended for use as a liquid barrier in an absorbent article (1, 26), such as a diaper, a sanitary napkin, an incontinence guard or like article, wherein the element includes an elongated, essentially inelastic and essentially liquid-impermeable material (10, 17) having two longitudinally extending edges (11, 12, 18, 19) of which the first edge (11, 18) is free and intended to be fastened
10 to the absorbent article, and the second edge (12, 19) is fastened to an elongated, prestretched elastic element (13, 14) such as to form a puckered, stretchable barrier edge (32, 39), characterized in that the elastic element is comprised of a band-like elastic device (14) having a first longitudinal edge (15) and a second longitudinal edge (16) of which at least the first edge (15) is fastened in a prestretched state to
15 the second edge (19) of the essentially inelastic material so that the mutually joined edges will constitute a stretchable, puckered first barrier edge (39), and including a longitudinally extending free part (16) which constitutes a stretchable, essentially smooth second barrier edge.

20 8. An element according to Claim 7, characterized in that said free part is formed by the second edge (16) of said elastic device.

9. An element according to Claim 7, characterized in that the elastic band-like device (14) is folded lengthwise; and in that its first edge (15) and its second edge
25 (16) are fastened to the second edge (19) of the inelastic material, wherewith said folded part of the elastic device (14) constituting said free part.

10. An element according to any one of Claims 7-9, characterized in that the second edge (19) of the inelastic material is folded inwards so as to form a channel
30 around the first edge (15) of the elastic device, where said first edge is fastened, e.g. glued or welded.

11. An element according to any one of Claims 7-10, characterized in that the essentially inelastic material is comprised of a nonwoven material, e.g. a multi-layer nonwoven material.

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12. An element according to any one of Claims 7-11, characterized in that the elastic device (14) has a width of at least 0.5 cm, preferably at least 1.0 cm.

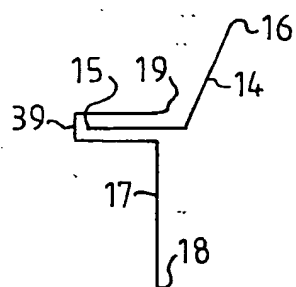
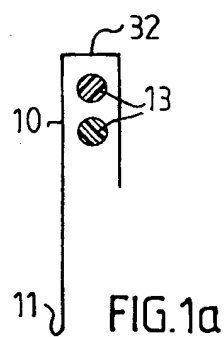
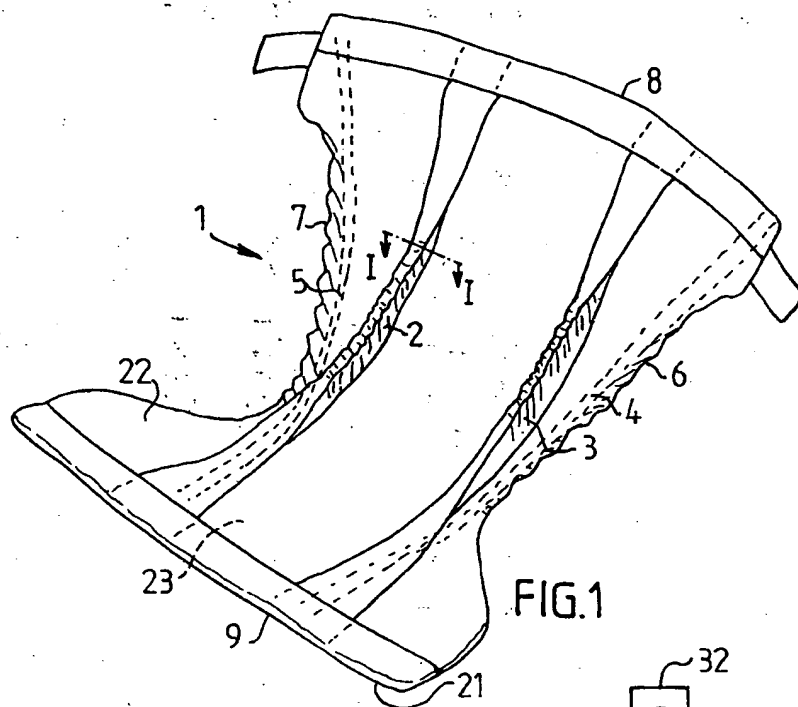


FIG. 1b

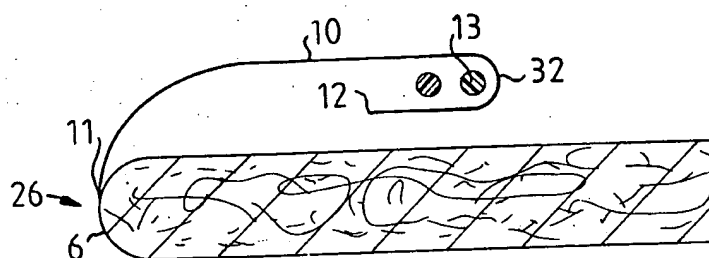


FIG. 2a

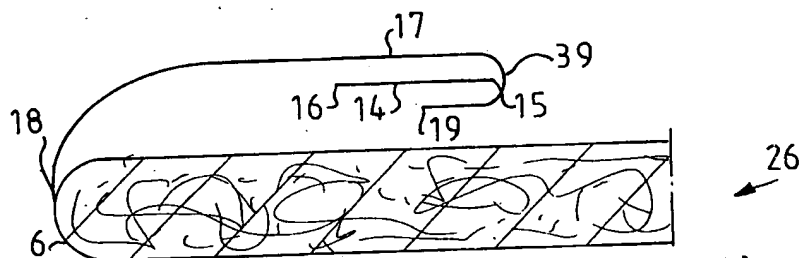


FIG. 2b

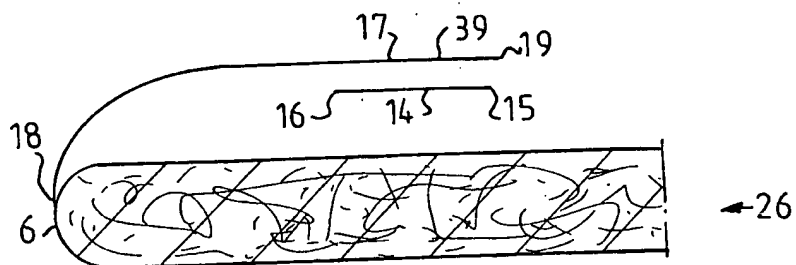


FIG. 2c

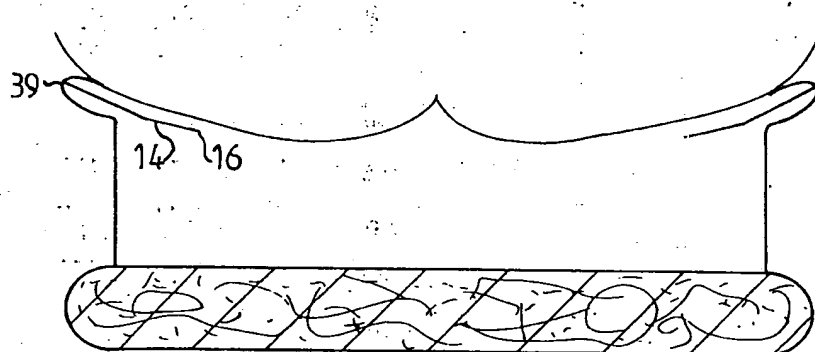


FIG. 3a

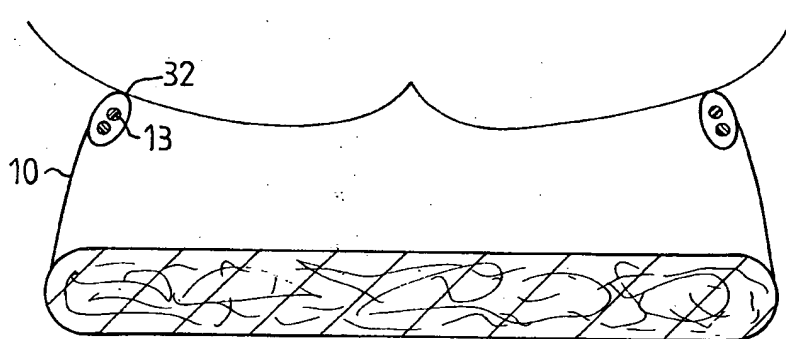


FIG. 3b

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 98/00340

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: A61F 13/15

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC6: A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPODOC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0534488 A1 (MCNEIL-PPC, INC.), 31 March 1993 (31.03.93), column 10, line 36 - line 53, figure 9 --	7-12
X	WO 9319711 A1 (THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY), 14 October 1993 (14.10.93), page 20, line 13 - line 20, figures 3-4 --	7-12
A	US 5445627 A (MIZUTANI ET AL), 29 August 1995 (29.08.95), column 2, line 34 - line 55, figures 1-3 -----	1-12

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 July 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

21 -07- 1998

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

30/06/98

International application No.

PCT/SE 98/00340

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International application No.

PCT/SE 98/00340

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